

Minutes of the meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011** at **7.15 p.m.**

**PRESENT**                      **Councillor V. Crosby (Chairman)**  
Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, J.D. Clare, W. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, T. Hogan, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

**IN ATTENDANCE**      Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp

**OFFICIALS**              Mr A. Bailey (Town Clerk)  
Mr S. Cooper (Environment Officer)  
Miss J. Simpson (Leisure Manager)  
Mr D. Thompson (Works Manager)  
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin Officer)

24.      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, Mrs. A. Palmer and Mr. N. Whinham (Golf Professional).

25.      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest declared.

26.      **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

27.      **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton and

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on the **6<sup>th</sup> July 2011** be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28.      **PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor A. Warburton, seconded by Councillor B. Hall and

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the Planning Sub-Committees held on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, 27<sup>th</sup> July, 10<sup>th</sup> August and 24<sup>th</sup> August 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29. **ALLOTMENTS REPORT**

The Works Manager submitted a report for the nine weeks ending 28<sup>th</sup> August 2011. The report gave information regarding the maintenance of allotment sites.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that the report be received.

30. **ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted their report for the nine weeks ending the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2011. The report gave details works carried out volunteers together with events during the school holiday period. Details of litter picks by school children had taken place.

The report gave details of the work carried out by an MSc Student as part of his eight week placement with this Authority.

Distribution of Dog Bags was ongoing, current supplies should last until December, however it was felt that a further bulk order with other Town Councils may be of benefit.

The report also gave information regarding burials and vandalism.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That a further bulk supply of dog bags be purchased with other Town Councils.

31. **JUBILEE WOOD**

The Works Manager and Environment Officer submitted a report on proposals and costs for the creation of 'Jubilee Wood' in Woodham Burn.

The report set out proposals to develop 1.5 hectares for the planting of trees and a further .7 hectares for the creation of a wildflower meadow.

To avoid any delay in complete the Jubilee Wood in the timescale requested it would be necessary for Woodland Management Contractors to be engaged.

Information in regard to various funding and grants were set out for members consideration. It was reported that the funding of the project had a shortfall of some £2,875 and a request was being sought for the Policy and Resources Committee to agree this amount from budgets.

A permanent marker was also to be placed on the site to commemorate the planting of the Jubilee Wood.

Councillor R.S. Fleming informed members of a rare Turkey Oak which is of national significance was growing in Aycliffe Village Cemetery and asked if acorns from this tree could be propagated and introduced into the Jubilee Project.

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That Woodland Management Contractors be engaged to prepare the site and carry out tree planting works.
- (ii) That an item be placed on the Policy and Resources agenda for the shortfall of £2,875 to be allocated from Council budgets.
- (iii) That Officers look at the propagation of Acorns from the Turkey Oak to be introduced into the Jubilee Project.

32. **GRANTS OF GRAVE SPACE**

**RESOLVED** – that it be noted that the undermentioned grants of grave space have been issued:

West Cemetery

Grave No. N 65	Anthony Whalen
Grave No. R117	Neil and Claire Anderson
Grave No. K 98	Sarah Gough
Grave No. K101	Jacqueline Goodchild

Stephenson Way Cemetery

Grave No. A557	Stacey Langan and Richard Britton
Grave No. A561	Samantha Foster

33. **NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor W. Curtis and seconded by Councillor P. Ducker:-

“That the Town Council send a polite letter to the developer of Greenwell Road asking them if they would bring forward the intended zebra crossing on Greenwell Road”.

Discussion took place as to the installation of the Zebra Crossing which was scheduled to be developed prior to the opening of the new store.

The road, whilst the store is under construction has high site boards in place, and these pose a hazard for pedestrians under health and safety.

**RESOLVED** – as follows:

‘That the Town Clerk contact the Planning Department and Developers with a view to bringing the installation of the Zebra Crossing forward or, if this is not possible, that the site boards on the development be amended to allow pedestrians a better sight of approaching traffic.

**CHAIRMAN.**